

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/822,860
Response filed October 1, 2007
Reply to OA dated May 17, 2007

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-2, 4-5 and 7-12 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend claims 3 and 6, as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Currently amended): A polyclonal antibody specific for a phosphorylated linker region in Smad2 and/or Smad3, obtained from antiserum raised by immunizing a mammal with a phosphorylated product of a peptide including an amino acid sequence in the linker region of Smad2 or Smad3 The polyclonal antibody according to claim 2, wherein the phosphorylated product of a peptide including the amino acid sequence in the linker region of Smad2 for the immunization is:

Pro Ala Glu Leu p-Ser Pro Thr Thr Leu p-Ser Pro Val Asn His Ser

(SEQ ID NO: 1)

wherein p-Ser represents phosphorylated serine

and

the phosphorylated product of a peptide including the amino acid sequence of the linker region of Smad3 for the immunization is:

Ala Gly Ser Pro Asn Leu p-Ser Pro Asn Pro Met p-Ser Pro Ala

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(SEQ ID NO 2)

wherein p-Ser represents phosphorylated serine.

Claims 4-5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Withdrawn): Use of polyclonal antibody according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~
claim 3 in screening of drugs that inhibit phosphorylation of the linker region in Smad2 or Smad3.

Claims 7-12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Previously presented): The polyclonal antibody according to claim 3, wherein the mammal is a rabbit.

Claim 14 (Previously presented): The polyclonal antibody according to claim 3, wherein the raised antiserum is affinity purified with a phosphorylated peptide(s).